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# Kato's inequality when $\Delta_p u$ is a measure and related topics (Analysis on Shapes of Solutions to Partial Differential Equations)

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# Kato's inequality when $\Delta_p u$ is a measure and related topics

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# 1 Introduction

$\Omega$  : a bounded domain of  $\mathbf{R}^N$  ( $N \geq 1$ ).

$$\Delta u = \operatorname{div}(\nabla u), \quad \nabla u = (\partial u / \partial x_1, \partial u / \partial x_2, \dots, \partial u / \partial x_N).$$

## 1.1 Convex type inequality

**Lemma 1** (*The classical convex type Kato's inequality*) Let  $u \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$  s.t.  $\Delta u \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$ , then  $\Delta|u|$  and  $\Delta u^+$  are Radon measures and we have

$$\Delta|u| \geq \operatorname{sgn}(u)\Delta u \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega), \quad (1)$$

$$\Delta u^+ \geq \chi_{[u \geq 0]}\Delta u \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega), \quad (2)$$

where  $\operatorname{sgn}(s) = 1$  if  $s > 0$ ,  $-1$  if  $s < 0$  and zero at  $s = 0$   $u^+ = \max[u, 0]$ .

**Remark 1.1** 1. If we assume in addition that  $u$  is continuous in  $\Omega$ , then we have

$$\Delta|u| = \operatorname{sgn}(u)\Delta u \quad \text{in } D'([u \neq 0]). \quad (3)$$

The inequality (1) ;  $\Delta|u| \geq \operatorname{sgn}(u)\Delta u$  in  $D'(\Omega)$

is a consequence of the fact that  $|u|$  takes its minimum on the set  $[u = 0]$ .

2. Similar inequalities hold

when  $\Delta u$  is replaced by elliptic operator  $M(x, \partial_x)$ :

$$M(x, \partial_x)u = \sum_{j,k=1}^N \partial_{x_j} (a_{j,k}(x) \partial_{x_k} u),$$

where  $a_{j,k}(x) \in C^1$ , and for some  $C > 0$

$$\sum_{j,k=1}^N a_{j,k}(x) \xi_j \xi_k \geq C|\xi|^2, \quad \text{for any } \xi \in \mathbf{R}^N$$

## 1.2 Concave type inequality

**Definition 1** (Truncation) :  $T_k(s)$  : Given  $k > 0$ , we denote by  $T_k : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  a truncation function

$$T_k(s) := \begin{cases} k & \text{if } s \geq k, \\ s & \text{if } -k < s < k, \\ -k & \text{if } s \leq -k. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Since  $T_k|_{\mathbf{R}_+}$  is concave, we have the following lemma:

**Lemma 2** Assume that  $u \in L_{loc}^1(\Omega)$ ,  $\Delta u \in L_{loc}^1(\Omega)$  and  $u \geq 0$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ . Then, for any  $k \geq 0$  we have

$$\Delta(T_k(u)) \leq \chi_{[0 \leq u \leq k]} \Delta u \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega), \quad (5)$$

where  $\chi_S(x)$  is a characteristic function of  $S \subset \mathbf{R}$ .

Moreover, when  $\Delta u$  can be replaced by  $\Delta_p u$  under additional assumptions on distributional derivatives of  $u \in L_{loc}^1(\Omega)$ .

Here,  $p$ -Laplace operator is defined by

$$\Delta_p u = \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u),$$

**Example 1** (Classical)

Let  $1 < p < \infty$ . For  $u \in K_p(\Omega)$  we have

1. (Convex type):

$$\Delta_p |u| \geq \operatorname{sgn}(u) \Delta_p u \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega), \quad (6)$$

$$\Delta_p u^+ \geq \chi_{[u \geq 0]} \Delta_p u \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega). \quad (7)$$

2. (Concave type): If  $u \geq 0$ , then we have

$$\Delta_p T_k(u) \leq \chi_{[0 \leq u \leq k]} \Delta_p u \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega). \quad (8)$$

Here  $K_p(\Omega)$  is given by

$$K_p(\Omega) = \{u \in L_{loc}^1(\Omega) : \partial_j u, \partial_{j,k}^2 u \in L_{loc}^{p^*}(\Omega), \\ |\nabla u|^{p-2} |\partial_{j,k}^2 u| \in L_{loc}^1(\Omega) \text{ for } j, k = 1, 2, \dots, N\},$$

where  $p^* = \max[(p-1), 1]$ .

## 2 Main Aim

Consider a class of second order elliptic operators  $\mathcal{A}$  including  $\Delta_p$  and establish improved Kato's inequalities when  $\mathcal{A}u$  is a Radon measure.

$$\mathcal{A}u = \operatorname{div} A(x, \nabla u), \quad (9)$$

where  $A : \Omega \times \mathbf{R}^N \mapsto \mathbf{R}^N$  satisfies the following assumptions for some positive numbers  $c_1, c_2$  and  $c_3$ :

1. the function  $x \mapsto A(x, \xi)$  is bounded measurable for  $\forall \xi \in R^N$ ,

2. the function  $\xi \mapsto A(x, \xi)$  is continuous for a.e.  $x \in \Omega$ ,

3.

$$|A(x, \xi) - A(x, \eta)| \leq c_2(|\xi| + |\eta|)^{p-2}|\xi - \eta|, \quad \forall \xi, \eta \in R^N, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega,$$

4.

$$(A(x, \xi) - A(x, \eta)) \cdot (\xi - \eta) \geq c_3(|\xi| + |\eta|)^{p-2}|\xi - \eta|^2, \quad \forall \xi, \eta \in R^N, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega,$$

5.

$$A(x, \lambda \xi) = \lambda |\lambda|^{p-2} A(x, \xi), \quad \text{for all } \lambda \in R, \lambda \neq 0.$$

**Remark 2.1** 1. It follows from the assumption 4 that we have

$$A(x, \xi) \cdot \xi \geq c_1 |\xi|^p \quad \text{for all } \xi \in R^N \text{ and a.e. } x \in \Omega.$$

2. For some  $C > 0$

$$\sum_{j,k=1}^N \left| \frac{\partial A_j}{\partial \xi_k}(x, \xi) \right| \leq C |\xi|^{p-2}, \quad \forall \xi \in R^N \setminus \{0\}, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega, \quad (10)$$

Then  $A$  satisfies the assumptions 3 and 4.

**Example 2** 1. In the case of  $\Delta_p$ ,  $A = A(\xi) = |\xi|^{p-2}\xi$ , and  $A$  satisfies the estimate (10).

2. Assume that  $a_{j,k} \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ ,  $a_{j,k} = a_{k,j}$  for  $j, k = 1, 2, \dots, N$  and  $\{a_{j,k}\}$  satisfies the uniformly elliptic estimate:

$$\sum_{j,k=1}^N a_{j,k} \xi_j \xi_k \geq C |\xi|^2 \quad \text{for any } \xi \in R^N.$$

$$\mathcal{B}u = \sum_{j,k=1}^N \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left( a_{j,k}(x) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_k} \right). \quad (11)$$

If  $p$  is sufficiently close to 2, then the operator  $\mathcal{B}$  satisfies the assumptions 1 ~ 5 with  $A_j(x, \xi) = \sum_{k=1}^N (a_{j,k}(x) |\xi|^{p-2} \xi_k)$ .

**Definition 2** ( $M(\Omega)$ : the space of Radon measure):

$\mu \in M(\Omega) \iff$  For every open set  $\omega \subset \subset \Omega$ ,  $\exists C_\omega > 0$  s.t.  $|\int_\omega \varphi d\mu| \leq C_\omega \|\varphi\|_{L^\infty}$ , for  $\forall \varphi \in C_0^\infty(\omega)$ .

We do not assume the finiteness of the total measure  $|\mu|(\Omega) < \infty$  but assume  $|\mu|(\omega) < \infty$  for each  $\omega \subset \subset \Omega$ .

### 3 Decomposition of Radon measures

For any  $\mu \in M(\Omega)$ ,  $\mu$  can be uniquely decomposed as a sum of two Radon measures on  $\Omega$  (see e.g. [7, 10]) :  $\mu = \mu_d + \mu_c$ , where

$$\begin{cases} \mu_d(A) = 0 & \text{for any Borel set } A \subset \Omega \text{ s.t. } C_p(A, \Omega) = 0, \\ |\mu_c|(\Omega \setminus F) = 0 & \text{for some Borel set } F \subset \Omega \text{ s.t. } C_p(F, \Omega) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Total measure:  $|\mu| = \mu^+ + \mu^-$ .

**Definition 3** (*A  $p$ -capacity relative to  $\Omega$* )

For each compact set  $K \subset \Omega$ ,

$$C_p(K, \Omega) = \inf \left\{ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \varphi|^p : \varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega), \varphi \geq 1 \text{ in some nbd of } K \right\}.$$

Note that  $(\mu_d)^+ = (\mu^+)_d$  and  $(\mu_c)^+ = (\mu^+)_c$  by the definition.

### 4 Definition of admissible class

**Definition 4** (*Admissible class in  $W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$* )

Let  $p^* = \max(1, p-1)$ .

A function  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$  is said to be admissible iff  $Au \in M(\Omega)$  and there exists a sequence  $\{u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \subset W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$  s.t:

1.  $u_n \rightarrow u$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ ,  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

2.  $Au_n \in L_{\text{loc}}^1(\Omega)$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) and

$$\sup_n |Au_n|(\omega) = \sup_n \int_{\omega} |Au_n| < \infty \quad \text{for every } \omega \subset\subset \Omega. \quad (12)$$

### 5 Some results on the admissibility

1. If  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$  is admissible  $\implies u^+ = \max[u, 0]$ ,  $u^- = \max[-u, 0]$ ,  $T_k(u)$  are admissible.

2.  $T_k(u) \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p}(\Omega)$  for  $\forall k > 0$ . Moreover, given  $\omega \subset\subset \omega' \subset\subset \Omega$ ,  $\exists C > 0$  independent on  $u$  s.t

$$\begin{cases} \int_{\omega} |\nabla T_k(u)|^2 \leq k \left( \int_{\omega'} |\Delta u| + C \int_{\omega'} |u| \right), & \text{if } p = 2, \\ \int_{\omega} |\nabla T_k(u)|^p \leq Ck \left( \int_{\omega'} |\Delta_p u| + \int_{\omega'} |\nabla u|^{p-1} \right) & \text{if } p \neq 2, \end{cases}$$

3. When  $p = 2$  and  $\mathcal{A} = \Delta$ ,

$u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,1}(\Omega)$ ,  $\Delta u \in M(\Omega) \implies u$  is admissible.

4.  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ ,  $Au \in M(\Omega) \implies u$  is admissible.

## 6 Counter-example due to J.Serrin

Let  $\Omega$  be a unit ball  $B_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : |x| < 1\}$ , and set

$$a_{i,j} = \delta_{i,j} + (a-1) \frac{x_i x_j}{r^2}, \quad (r = |x|), \quad (13)$$

$$\mathcal{B}u = \sum_{j,k=1}^N \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left( a_{j,k}(x) \frac{\partial U}{\partial x_k} \right) = 0. \quad (14)$$

Then we have a pathological weak solution of the form

$$U(x) = x_1 r^{-\alpha}, \quad \text{where } \alpha = \frac{N}{2} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{N}{2} - 1\right)^2 + \frac{N-1}{a}}. \quad (15)$$

If  $a > 1 \implies N-1 < \alpha < N$ .

**Proposition 1** *Assume that  $a > 1$ . Then  $U \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,1}(B_1)$  and  $\mathcal{B}U = 0$  in  $D'(B_1)$ . But  $U$  is not admissible, and  $\mathcal{B}(U^+)$  is not a Radon measure.*

## 7 Main results and Applications

In the rest of this note, we assume for the sake of simplicity

$$\mathcal{A} = \Delta_p.$$

### 7.1 Improved Concave type inequality

**Theorem 1** [15, 16]

*Assume that  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$  and  $u$  is admissible.*

$$\Downarrow \Downarrow \Downarrow$$

*If  $u \geq 0$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ , then  $\Delta_p(T_k(u))$  is a Radon measure for every  $k > 0$ . Moreover, we have*

$$\Delta_p(T_k(u)) \leq (\Delta_p u)^+. \quad (16)$$

### 7.2 Application to Strong Maximum Principle

**Theorem 2** [15] *Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Assume that  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$ ,  $u \geq 0$  a.e. and  $u$  is admissible. Then*

1. *There exists a quasicontinuous function ( w.r.t.  $C_p$  )  $\tilde{u} : \Omega \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  such that  $u = \tilde{u}$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ .*

2. Assume that

$$-\Delta_p u \geq 0 \text{ in } \Omega \quad \text{in the sense of measures.} \quad (17)$$

If  $\tilde{u} = 0$  on some  $K \subset \Omega$  with  $C_p(K, \Omega) > 0$ , then  $u = 0$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ .

**Remark 7.1**  $-\Delta_p u$  can be replaced by  $-\Delta_p u + au^q$ , where  $0 \leq a \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$  and  $q \geq p - 1$ .

**Example 3**  $U = x_1/|x|^\alpha$  is not admissible in  $\Omega = B_1$ . Moreover  $U = 0$  on  $\{x_1 = 0\} \cap B_{1/2}$  which has positive  $p$ -capacity.

### 7.3 A quick sketch of the proof of Theorem 2

Since  $\Delta_p u \leq 0$  in  $\Omega$  in the measure sense,

$\Downarrow$

$$(\Delta_p u)_d^+ = 0$$

$\Downarrow$

Since  $T_k(u) \in W^{1,p}_{loc}(\Omega)$ ,  $\Delta_p(T_k(u)) \in M(\Omega)$  for any  $k > 0$ ,

$$\Delta_p(T_k(u)) \leq (\Delta_p u)_d^+ = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(\Omega), \quad \forall k > 0.$$

$\Downarrow$

Now we can assume that  $u \in L^\infty(\Omega)$

$\Downarrow$

As a test function, using  $\varphi_0^p/(u + \delta)^{p-1}$  with  $\varphi_0 = 1$  on  $\omega$ ,

$$\int_\omega \left| \nabla \log \left( \frac{u}{\delta} + 1 \right) \right|^p \leq C \int_\Omega (\varphi_0^p + |\nabla \varphi_0|^p).$$

$\Downarrow$

Let  $E \subset \Omega$  with  $C_p(E, \Omega) > 0$  s.t.  $\tilde{u} = 0$  on  $E \subset \omega \subset \subset \Omega$ .

By the Poincaré's inequality

$$\int_\omega \left| \log \left( \frac{u}{\delta} + 1 \right) \right|^p \leq C \int_\Omega \varphi_0^p + |\nabla \varphi_0|^p \quad \forall \delta > 0.$$

$\Downarrow$

We conclude that  $u = 0$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ . □



## 7.4 Convex type Kato's inequality

**Theorem 3** [15, 16] *Let  $\Phi$  be a  $C^1$  convex function s.t  $0 \leq \Phi' < \infty$ . Assume  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$  and  $u$  is admissible. Then we have*

$$\Delta_p \Phi(u) \geq \Phi'(u)^{p-1} (\Delta_p u)_d - \|\Phi'\|_{L^\infty(\mathbf{R})} (\Delta_p u)_c^- \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega). \quad (18)$$

**Corollary 1** *Assume the same assumptions in Theorem 3.*

*Then it holds that*

$$\Delta_p(u^+) \geq \chi_{[u \geq 0]} (\Delta_p u)_d - (\Delta_p u)_c^- \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega), \quad (19)$$

$$\Delta_p |u| \geq \text{sgn}(u) (\Delta_p u)_d - |\Delta_p u|_c \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega), \quad (20)$$

where  $\text{sgn}(t) = 1$  for  $t > 0$ ,  $\text{sgn}(t) = -1$  for  $t < 0$ , and  $\text{sgn}(0) = 0$ .

**Example 4** *Let  $u = |x|^\alpha$  for  $\alpha = (p - N)/(p - 1)$  and  $0 \in \Omega$ .*

1.  *$u$  satisfies  $\Delta_p u = \alpha |\alpha|^{p-2} c_N \delta$ ,  $\delta$  : a Dirac mass,  $c_N$  : the surface area of the unit ball  $B_1$ . If  $p > 2 - 1/N$ , then  $|\nabla u| \in L_{\text{loc}}^1(\Omega)$  and  $u$  is admissible.*

$$\text{Recall} \quad \Delta_p(u^+) \geq \chi_{[u \geq 0]} (\Delta_p u)_d - (\Delta_p u)_c^- \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega). \quad (19)$$

2. *If  $2 - 1/N \leq p \leq N$ , then  $\alpha \leq 0$ ,  $C_p(\{0\}, \Omega) = 0$  ( $\Delta_p(u^+)$  is concentrated)  $(\Delta_p(u^+))_c = (\Delta_p u)_c = -(\Delta_p u)_c^- = \alpha |\alpha|^{p-2} c_N \delta \leq 0$ .*

*If  $p > N$ , then  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $C_p(\{0\}, \Omega) > 0$  ( $\Delta_p(u^+)$  is diffuse)  $(\Delta_p(u^+))_c = (\Delta_p u)_c = (\Delta_p u)_c^- = 0$  and  $\Delta_p(u^+) = \chi_{[u \geq 0]} (\Delta_p u)_d = \alpha |\alpha|^{p-2} c_N \delta \geq 0$ .*

*Consequently*

$$\Delta_p(u^+) = \chi_{[u \geq 0]} (\Delta_p u)_d - (\Delta_p u)_c^- \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega).$$

## 7.5 Inverse maximum principle

**Theorem 4** [15, 16] (**Inverse maximum principle**) *Assume  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$ ,  $u \geq 0$  and  $u$  is admissible. Then we have*

$$(-\Delta_p u)_c \geq 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega. \quad (21)$$

**Corollary 2** *Assume  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$  and  $u$  is admissible. Then we have*

$$(-\Delta_p(u^+))_c = (-\Delta_p u)_c^+ \quad \text{on } \Omega. \quad (22)$$

## 7.6 A quick sketch of the proof of Theorem 4:

Recall:

$$T_k(u) \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p}(\Omega), \Delta_p(T_k(u)) \in M(\Omega) \text{ for } \forall k > 0.$$

Moreover we have

$$\Delta_p(T_k(u)) \leq (\Delta_p u)^+ \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega).$$

Set  $\Delta_p u = \mu \in M(\Omega)$ .

For some compact set  $K$ , s.t.  $|\mu_c|(\Omega \setminus K) = 0$ ,  $C_p(K, \Omega) = 0$ .

$$\text{Then } \Delta_p T_k(u) \leq \mu^+ \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega \setminus K).$$

$$\text{As } k \rightarrow \infty, \quad \mu = \Delta_p u \leq \chi_{\Omega \setminus K} \mu^+ \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega).$$

$$\text{Then } \mu_c|_K = \mu_K \leq 0 \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega).$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\mu_c \leq 0 \quad \text{in } D'(\Omega). \tag{23}$$

□

## 7.7 Application of IMP

**Theorem 5** [17] Suppose that  $u$  is admissible. Then  $\text{supp } \mu_c^\pm \subset \{x : u = \pm\infty\}$  for  $\mu = \Delta_p u$ .

**Remark 7.2** From this fact,

if  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$  is an admissible solution of  $-\Delta_p u = \mu \in M(\Omega)$ ,  
then  $u$  is also a (local) renormalized solution of  $-\Delta_p u = \mu$ .

## 7.8 A quick sketch of proof of Theorem 5

Suppose that  $u$  is admissible.

$\Downarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_p u &= \Delta_p(T_k u) + \Delta_p(u - k)^+ - \Delta_p(u + k)^- \\ -\Delta_p \mu &= \mu_d + \mu_c^+ - \mu_c^- \end{aligned}$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\Delta_p(u - k)^+, \Delta_p(u + k)^- \leq 0 \quad (IMP)$$

$\Downarrow$

Note that  $\Delta_p(T_k u)$  is diffuse and  $k$  is an arbitrary number.

$\Downarrow$

$$\text{supp } \mu_c^\pm \subset \{x : u = \pm\infty\}$$

□

## 8 Existence of admissible solution

**Theorem 6** [17] Assume that  $\mu \in M(\Omega)$  and  $|\mu|(\Omega) < \infty$ . Then

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = \mu, & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0, & \text{on } \Omega. \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

has an admissible solution in  $W_0^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$ .

The proof relies on the following lemma.

**Lemma 3** Let  $\{\mu_n\}$  satisfy  $\sup_n |\mu_n|(\Omega) < \infty$  and  $\{u_n\}$  be admissible. Assume that

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u_n = \mu_n, & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u_n = 0, & \text{on } \Omega. \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

holds for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ .

Then, up to a subsequence,  $u_n \rightarrow \exists u \in W_0^{1,p^*}(\Omega)$  s.t.  $u$  is admissible and satisfy (24) for  $\exists \mu$ .

## 9 Problems

1. (Nonlinear version of Good measure problem)

Let  $g(s)$  be continuous, nonnegative and nondecreasing on  $[0, \infty)$ . When does the next equation have an admissible solution?  $-\Delta_p u + g(u) = \mu, \quad u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$

2. (Nonlinear version of boundary Kato's inequality)

If  $u, \Delta_p u \in L^1$ , then  $\Delta_p u^+$  is a finite measure?

Ex: Even if  $p = 2$ , there is a  $u \in H^1(\Omega)$ , s.t.  $\Delta u = 0$ , but  $\int_\Omega |\Delta u^+| = \infty$

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